

- How do I submit my completed Early Vote/Absentee application?**
- Mail or in person: Election Office, 601 N. 46th St., Lincoln NE 68503
  - Email: [earlyvote@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:earlyvote@lancaster.ne.gov)
  - Fax: 402-441-6379
  - Drop Box: Located on the north side of the Election Office (outside the main entrance).
    - Postage is not required if you use the Election Office drop box or hand-deliver your application.

- How can I return my voted Early Vote/Absentee ballot?**
- U.S. Postal Service (proper postage is required).
    - Mail your ballot in a timely manner to ensure your ballot is received at the Election Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.
  - Hand deliver to the Election Office, 601 N. 46th St., Lincoln by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
  - A drop box is located on the north side of the Election Office (outside the main entrance).
    - Postage is not required if you use the Election Office drop box or hand-deliver your ballot.
  - Early Vote/Absentee Ballots cannot be returned to a polling location on Election Day.

- ELECTION DAY**
- When will the polling place be open on Election Day?**
- The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Where do I vote?**
- You must cast your ballot at your assigned polling place. If you do not know the location of your polling place, call the Election Office at 402-441-7311 or log on to [www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov](http://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov) and click on “Polling Place.”

- Can I vote if I moved within Lancaster County and did not update my voter registration?**
- Yes. Your new polling place will be determined by your new (current) address. See “Where do I vote?” above.
    - Allow additional time at your polling place to complete required paperwork.

- Do I need to present a voting card or other ID to vote?**
- No. Identification is not required to vote.

- What are the procedures at the polling place?**
- The election board worker will:
    - Greet you and ask for your name and address.
    - Locate your name in the roster of registered voters.
    - Instruct you where to sign your name.
    - Give you the paper ballot.
    - Show how to mark your selections on the ballot.
    - Direct you to the voting area.
  - Mark your ballot privately in a voting booth.
    - You must darken the ovals completely for the candidate(s) and issues you select.
    - To vote for a write-in candidate, write the name on the line provided AND darken the oval completely.
    - You are not required to vote on every race or issue. If you only darken one oval on the ballot, your vote will be counted.
  - Place your voted ballot inside the secrecy sleeve which has been provided by the board worker.
  - Give the secrecy sleeve containing your voted ballot to the board worker.
  - The board worker will deposit your voted ballot in the ballot box.

- Why do I give my voted ballot to a board worker so they can put it in the ballot box?**
- Nebraska state law requires this procedure. It ensures that only the properly issued ballots are deposited in the ballot box.

- How are ballots counted?**
- Ballots in Lancaster County are electronically scanned and counted.

- Are there restricted activities on Election Day?**
- Yes. No one can campaign within 200 feet of any part of a polling place building. This includes: posting campaign signs, distributing political literature, and wearing political clothing or campaign pins or stickers.
    - Private property located within 200 feet of a polling place, is not subject to these restrictions.

- ACCESSIBILITY FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES**
- Can voters receive assistance in voting?**
- Yes. A friend or relative may help or the voter may request the assistance of election board workers. Two board workers of different political parties will assist the voter.

- An accessible voting device will be available at every polling place. A voter with disabilities will be able to use this device to mark their ballot privately and unassisted.
- Are the polling places accessible to persons with disabilities?**
- Yes. All polling places are accessible. However, if a voter with disabilities will have difficulty entering a polling place:
    - Contact the Election Office at 402-441-7311. Arrangements will be made ensuring that when the voter arrives at the polling place, board workers will bring a ballot to their vehicle.
    - If an individual is providing transportation for a voter, the individual may come into the polling place and ask the board workers for assistance. The board workers will then bring a ballot to their vehicle.

**ELECTION DATES**

Type of Election	Date of Election
<b>2020</b>	
State Primary	May 12, 2020
State General	November 3, 2020
<b>2021</b>	
Lincoln City Primary	April 6, 2021
Lincoln City General	May 4, 2021
<b>2022</b>	
State Primary	May 10, 2022
State General	November 8, 2022
<b>2023</b>	
Lincoln City Primary	April 4, 2023
Lincoln City General	May 2, 2023

- Participate in Democracy and Get Paid For It!**
- If you are interested in serving as an Election Day Board Worker, please contact the Election Office at 402-441-7054.

**How do I contact the Election Office?**

Location: 601 N. 46th St., Lincoln  
Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 402-441-7311  
Fax: 402-441-6379  
Website: [www.lancaster.ne.gov/election](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/election)  
Email: [dshively@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:dshively@lancaster.ne.gov)



# A VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

## FOR LANCASTER COUNTY VOTERS

**David J. Shively**  
Lancaster County  
Election Commissioner

Lancaster County Election Office  
601 North 46th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68503  
402-441-7311  
Fax: 402-441-6379

[lancaster.ne.gov/election](http://lancaster.ne.gov/election)

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# VOTER REGISTRATION

## Am I required to register if I want to vote?

- Yes. Voter registration is required.

## What are the voter registration deadlines before an election?

- Mail-in registration applications must be postmarked no later than the 3rd Friday before an election.
- When registering to vote through the DMV or another state agency, the application must be completed no later than the 3rd Friday before an election.
- Online registration applications must be submitted before midnight on the 3rd Friday before an election.
- In person at the Election Office until 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday before an election.

## Are there requirements I must meet before I register to vote?

- Yes. You can register to vote if you:
  - Will be 18 years of age or older on General Election Day (first Tuesday after the first Monday in November).
  - Are a United States citizen.
  - Are a resident of Nebraska.
  - Have not been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, it has been at least two years since the completion of the sentence for the felony including any parole term.
  - Have not been found mentally incompetent.

## Where do I register to vote:

- In person at the Election Office, 601 N 46th St., Lincoln.
  - Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Online at [www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration](http://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration)
- Through the Department of Motor Vehicles when you obtain or update your Nebraska driver license or state identification card.
- When applying for benefits through the State Department of Education or Department of Health and Human Services.
- Paper copies of the voter registration application are available. Those forms will need to be completed and returned to the Election Office. Registration applications are available at:
  - Most post offices and libraries.
  - Election Office at 402-441-7311.
  - [www.lancaster.ne.gov/election/vr-fillable.pdf](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/election/vr-fillable.pdf)

## When do I need to update my voter registration?

- You must update your voter registration if you change your name, address or political party affiliation.

## What do the terms “Partisan” and “Nonpartisan” mean?

- Partisan: An individual affiliated with a specific political party.
- Nonpartisan: An individual *not* affiliated with any political party.

## Am I required to choose a political party when I register to vote?

- You must choose a political party (Republican, Democratic, Libertarian) if you wish to vote for partisan candidates in a statewide primary election.
- Choose to register as “Nonpartisan” if you do not wish to vote for partisan candidates in a statewide primary election.

## What races are “Partisan”?

- President of the United States
- United States Senator
- Member of the United States House of Representatives
- Nebraska State Constitutional officials which include: Governor, State Treasurer, Auditor of Pubic Accounts, Secretary of State and Attorney General
- Public Service Commissioner
- County officials which include: County Commissioners, County Clerk, Assessor/Register of Deeds, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk of the District Court and County Engineer

## What races are “Nonpartisan”?

- State Legislature
- Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska
- State Board of Education
- Public Power District Board of Directors
- Natural Resource District Board of Directors
- Southeast Community College Board of Governors
- Educational Service Units
- Local Boards of Education
- Local City Mayor and Council Members
- Local Village Board of Trustee Members
- Retention of Judges

## How is residence determined?

- Your residence is considered the place where you have established a “home.” It is the place that, when you depart, you intend to return.
- For voting purposes, if you leave your “home” for military service or school/college, you are allowed to maintain your “home” as your voting residence. However, if you choose, you may change your voter registration to the location of your military assignment or school.

## Do I have to be a resident for a certain amount of time to register?

- No. You may register to vote the same day you move to Lancaster County.

## Will I receive notice that my registration application has been accepted and processed?

- Yes. When you register to vote, an informational postcard will be mailed to you within 10 days. The postcard will inform you of the location of your polling place and some of your voting districts.

## Will I be on the list of potential jurors if I register to vote?

- Yes. However you should know that the list of potential jurors is taken from both driver license and voter registration lists.

# NEBRASKA STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- The purpose of the Primary Election is to narrow the field of candidates that will appear on the General Election ballot. For partisan races, this will also allow the political parties to nominate one candidate per race.
- Nebraska has a “closed” primary election. This means:
  - If you are registered as a member of a political party, your ballot will include the partisan races of your political party. It will also include the nonpartisan races and issues.
  - If you are registered as “Nonpartisan”, your ballot will include the nonpartisan races and issues.
    - In the statewide primary you have the option to request a “Congressional Ballot” of one recognized political party. The only races appearing on this ballot are United States Senate and United States House of Representatives.

- However, each political party has the option to allow Nonpartisan voters to vote on their partisan races. If you choose to vote a Congressional Ballot of a party who is exercising this option, their partisan races will be included on your Congressional Ballot.
- Candidates receiving the most votes are considered “nominated”. The nominated candidate names will appear on the General Election ballot in November.
  - The General Election is when candidates are actually elected.

# EARLY VOTE/ABSENTEE

## Early Vote/Absentee Deadlines

- First day to submit an early vote/absentee ballot application: 120 days prior to an election
- First day early vote/absentee ballots can be mailed to voter:
  - 35 days before statewide elections
  - 15 days before local elections
- First day a voter can vote at the Election Office:
  - 30 days before statewide elections
  - 15 days before local elections
- Last day to vote at the Election Office: The day before the election
- Last day for an agent to pick up an early vote/absentee ballot at the Election Office: 7 p.m. Election Day

## What is an agent?

- An agent is a friend or relative who can pick up a ballot for you. They may also request that a ballot be mailed to you.
- An agent may assist a maximum of two voters.
- Candidates or members of a campaign committee can only be an agent for their own family.

## How do I apply for an early vote/absentee ballot?

- Any registered voter can go to the Election Office, 601 N 46th St., Lincoln. You will complete an early vote/absentee application and either vote in the office or, if the ballots are not yet available, request that the ballot be mailed to you.
- Early vote/absentee applications can be found at: [www.lancaster.ne.gov/election](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/election) - Click on Early Vote/Absentee Ballot.
- Send a letter to the Election Office requesting that an early vote/absentee ballot be sent to you. Include your name, residence address, where you want the ballot mailed and the signature of either the voter or agent.